

Not far from the latter place are also the extensive gardens of William Hamilton, Esq., called the Woodlands, which I found not only rich in plants from all parts of the world, but particularly so in rare and new American species. Philadelphia being a central situation, and extremely well calculated for the cultivation of plants from all the other parts of North America, I found this collection particularly valuable for furnishing me with a general knowledge of the plants of that country, preparatory to more extensive travels into the interior, for the discovery of new and unknown subjects. Mr. John Lyon, (of whom I shall have an opportunity to speak hereafter,) who had the management of these gardens, was then about to give them up: having the offer of being appointed his successor, I embraced it, and accordingly in 1802 I entered upon the situation. During my stay in this place, which was until 1805, I received and collected plants from all parts of North America; and when Michaux's "*Flora Boreali-Americana*" appeared, which was during that time, I was not only in possession of most of his plants, but had then a considerable number not described by him.

Within this period I had also formed a connection with Dr. Benjamin S. Barton, Professor of Botany in the University of Pennsylvania, &c. whose industrious researches in all the different branches of natural history are so well known to the literary world. He likewise, for some time previous, had been collecting materials for an American Flora. As I was now very anxious to explore the more remote parts of the country, particularly the interesting ranges of the Allegany Mountains, I was enabled, by the kind assistance of this gentleman, to